

18 MAR 1961

Robert Kennedy / enc

The Honorable
The Attorney General
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

On August 23, 1950 President Truman issued a Directive

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This Directive imposed personal responsibility upon the Secretaries of Defense and the Treasury, the Attorney General, and the Director of Central Intelligence for the control of such devices.

These devices represented an important scientific advance at the time this Directive was issued. Developments in this area since 1950 have so extended the state of the art that I believe it is no longer practicable to maintain the degree of control originally imposed.

In 1958 the Central Intelligence Agency proposed that this Directive be modified, and the Departments of Defense and the Treasury concurred. Certain clandestine foreign intelligence activities employing comparable devices led to further consideration of this matter last year by a subcommittee of the National Security Council, but a conclusion was not reached prior to the change in Administration.

I believe this Directive should be revised and reissued to provide for controls on this subject matter which are consistent with the current state of scientific developments. In particular, I think that the assignment of nondelegable responsibility to the four named department and agency heads is unnecessary and burdensome.

TS 174823

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I am submitting herewith for your consideration a proposed redraft of this Directive. Lawrence R. Houston, my General Counsel, will be available for discussion of this proposal with your representatives.

Sincerely,

Allen Dulles

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Enclosure

TS 174825

OGC:NCF:jeb

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